

March 9, 1979

Rev. Claudia Vierra
MCC East Bay
3159 Brookdale Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94602

Dear Rev. Vierra:

As representative for the District to the Task Force on Women, I am taking the liberty of sending you the enclosed By-Law change proposal. The women of our district met at last District Conference and proposed the changes in language enclosed for the MCC Statement of Faith. It was our intent to remain as faithful to the language and theology of the original as possible, but to reduce and/or eliminate all male pronomials, masculine wording, etc., yet to maintain the Christology of the original. We like to think we succeeded! We would hope that this proposal would answer a need in this District, at least, for a Statement of Faith which, by its language, would not turn away the many Lesbian feminists in our area.

As you are aware, this is probably our greatest handicap in reaching women in this part of the country, and our churches have made a concerted effort to change language and yet retain the essential Christian message. (We are not, for example, all in favor of the stance proposed by Susan Savell last year, to include feminine references to God.)

You will note that the proposal degenders and makes the language inclusive of both sexes, by making it totally non-sexist. That is, it uses words which have no gender referent at all.

We hope that the Task Force on Women might co-sponsor this proposal with us. In that interest, we ask you to express an opinion and let us share it with our women at the May District Conference.

We hope to hear from you soon.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Ragons

Rev. Margie Rogers

In Christ's love,

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Dear Rev. Victoria:

Rev. Claudia Victoria
MOC East Bay
3159 Brookdale Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94602

March 9, 1979



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3159 Brookdale Avenue
Oakland, Ca. 94602
Task Force on Women

August 26, 1978

To: All Task Force Members
District Co-ordinators
Elders
Mr. Adam DeBaugh
Rev. Frank Murr

Re: Task Force on Women

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Christ.

I am feeling very frustrated about the Task Force on Women. I'm not sure how the rest of you are feeling. A few of the District Representatives are communicating regularly with me, but for the most part I hear nothing. Which leads me to believe that you are either not interested, your District isn't working on the Task Force goals or that you are really busy. I very much want the Task Force on Women to pull together and work towards some specific goals, but I am frustrated that this is not going to happen. At the General Conference in Denver the number one goal of the Task Force was COMMUNICATION. I need to know from you where you stand on this and on the Task Force itself. I know that some Districts are working very hard and I appreciate the work. However I feel that as a Task Force we are not working together.

Please evaluate your feeling and position regarding the Task Force on Women and let me know the answers to the following questions:

1. Do you want to remain the District Rep.?
2. What do you feel about the goals of the Task Force?
3. What are you personally doing to see that the Task Force is functioning in your District?
4. What is your District doing ?
5. What expectations do you have of the Task Force for 1978-79?
6. What expectations do you have of me?
7. Do you have any suggestions?

Please respond back to me. Let me know that you have received this letter, and about how you are feeling.

Here is an up to date list of the Task Force members. If there are any changes, please let me know.

Northeast: Rev. Marge Ragona
P.O. Box 1462
Providence RI 02901

Northwest: Betty Nelson
10275 SW Meadow
Tigard, Ore. 97217

Southeast: Jean Bush
6250 68 Terrace N.
Pinellas Park, Fl. 33565

Southwest: Josephine Barnard
850 West Thomas #10
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Mid-Atlantic:
Beverly Minnix
1044 Stanton Terrace
Pittsburg, PA 15201

South Central:
JoNee Shelton
401 SE 22nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK. 73129

South Atlantic: Julia Davis
c/o MCC Atlanta
800 N. Highland Av. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

Mid-Central: ?

Great Lakes: ?

Canada: ? (Rev. Joanne Monti
was the Rep., but she has
moved.)

Australasia: Vera Bourne
39 Wilfred St.
Lidcombe 2141
N.S.W. Australia

I hope to hear from you soon.

In Christ's Service,

Reverend Claudia L. Vierra
Reverend Claudia L. Vierra
Chair- Task Force on Women

Communication - Claudia Viera - Jody Stiles

Redraft of Doctrinal Statement - Susan Eckenburg
Karen Ziegler
Wendy Kraus

Elect Tan Force Leader

N.Y. - No kids

Hartford - ?

New Haven - ?

Syracuse - No kids

Alpha & Omega -

Hesperia - ?

Boston - No provision made - / need re-arrangements
No relig. inst.
No day care

Providence -

Straight women -

Consciousness raising -

Assumption of gayness -

Bi Sexual Women

NY -	10-30/100	(25% avg.)	/90-100	/150
Boston	8/70	14/85		
Providence	17	35-40		
Worcester	10/20			
Hartford	2/	4/		5%
A+O	50%			
Hispana				5%
Syracuse	25%			

Ny - need to get women involved

Boston - Lay leadership, separatist feeling

Problem - Ny still has problem

Women not serve as Asst. under men.

Co / not Asst.

Boston - Feminist / paranoid place

Name

Address

Mary Klepser

P.O. Box 5253, Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520

Donna M. Rawding

71 Paine St. Worcester, Mass. 01605

Sara Pope

State University College

Grissom Hall

Box 205 B

Syracuse, New York 14063

Cheryl McCullough

117 Bulgarmareh Rd. Torrington, Ct. 02878

Sexual Pref. Issue
1/11/4
NBTF

1000

1000

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June 16, 1977

✓ ✓
Dear Nancy, Barbara, Marge and Jean:

Have returned from a relaxing vacation in Chicago--full of vim and vigor!
Marge, here is a copy of the article by Grimstad and Rennie to be used in place of the copy from Quest. You have the permission to be used--I gave it to you over the phone. *(I printed it on the copy here)* If you need it again let me know. I have not yet received the Daly article--am anxious to see it so I can consider the question of its inclusion--frankly the problem is that you have to draw the line somewhere--I keep finding wonderful new articles all over the place.

Nancy and Jean==the Syracuse short article seems fine as well as the blurb on Marge's presentation. Got a letter from Mickley the other day about selling the book at General Conference. We will need to settle on a firm price fairly soon and sell it to the bookshop at wholesale 40% discount--I suggest a 50% markup from the production price/copy. Thus, if the book costs \$1.50 to produce we should charge \$2.00 retail, selling it to the bookstore (and most other bookstores) for \$1.80. Let me know your thoughts.

I received a letter from the Pittsburgh women--IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE--just the kind of thing we need to do the broadening of base that we need at this point. The blurb box looks fine. The Pittsburgh letter, which she said we could print, has been edited and condensed slightly by me and follows

Christian Lesbians In Action

The women of Pittsburgh-MCC have ~~farmed~~ rounded each other together and come up with a total of 10 women interested enough to attend church regularly and the group's bimonthly meetings. Christian Lesbians In Action (CLIA) is small but mighty. The groups goals and programs follow:

1. Sunday School on a regular basis, taught alternately by female and male teachers, using desexed definitions of God and a desexed childrens' Bible. About 8 children attend class at present.
2. Use of a woman's hymnal at weekly services.
3. CLIA is sponsoring a musical concert to help finance Frank and Cliff's (the copasto

trip to Denver/. The group will perform, advertise and produce the concert in affiliation with the Pittsburgh chapter of NOW, The Wild Sisters (a women's cultural group about one year young); and the Gay Parents' Group. Also PERSOD, a privately funded counseling and communication center for the Pittsburgh gay community. CLIA also expects to receive help and cooperation from the gay bars.

4. Bobby, our deacon, and Jan our deacon candidate, are in every Sunday service. and ~~xxx~~ services include music by some of the women.

Long range and basic goals of CLIA include:

reaching out to more women needing spiritual guidance and comfort;
to create a sense of community between sister and sister and sister and brother;
to educate the masses of ignorant people about Christianity and Gayness (especially our children); and lastly, communicating as a network with all MCCs on a regular and frequent basis.

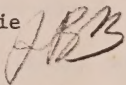
"We women here in Pgh. are doing our best to see that MER gets circulated. I particularly enjoyed "The Pearl of Great Price" by Rev. Haywood....The women and even some of our male members are very grateful to you for your courage, your ability and your sincerity." Judy Roberts, CLIA, Pittsburgh

from Judy

Note: Just read where Methodist's Board of Church and Society voted to refuse to meet in states that have NOT ratified ERA. It ^{is} has a 10 million member denomination.

Enough for a brief lunch hour.

Love, Jennie





WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL CENTER
400 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115

THE PROGRAM

The Women's Theological Center offers participants a one-year program of study and action from a Christian and feminist perspective. The integrated course of study-action-reflection embodies the unity of thought-act-spirit through

1. A Core Seminar designed as a critical encounter between Christian tradition in its Biblical, theological and historical dimensions and contemporary feminist thought and experience, to assist participants in developing a personal frame of reference for their work and ministry.
2. Field-Based Critical Action on a sustained basis throughout the year in situations of social and/or ecclesial change, through which participants further develop effective skills for social analysis, action and personal empowerment.
3. Feminist Spirituality and Praxis, a structured process drawing on story, symbol, ritual, faith-sharing and community building, in which participants explore and develop relational and reflective resources for integrating the personal and the political in their work and learning.
4. Additional Course Work in more traditional settings, with faculty from the wider theological community of metropolitan Boston; participants select one course each semester to meet particular needs and concerns in the context of the total year's program.

The uniqueness of the Women's Theological Center program is its approach to learning which stresses action and reflection based on the individual and collective experience of the participants. By working contextually, collaboratively and in a cross-disciplinary way, the program seeks to empower women to raise questions out of the experience of oppression and to address the social and ecclesial tradition with a challenge to liberation.

CREDIT/CERTIFICATION

By arrangements made with Emmanuel College in Boston and currently under negotiation with the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, the Women's Theological Center will offer academic credit for the year-long program. Subject to the regulations of their home institutions, participants will be able to transfer up to twenty-four semester hours of credit (the equivalent of four full-year courses) to Master's level degree programs in which they might be enrolled elsewhere. A certificate of participation is also available for those who do not want academic credit for the program.

The FACULTY consists of two Co-Directors, assisted by field site personnel and additional consultants for the Core Seminar and Feminist Spirituality and Praxis sections.

The COORDINATING COMMITTEE is the local body responsible for the planning and functioning of the program; the ADVISORY COMMITTEE helps shape the philosophy and policy of the Center. Members of both groups contribute to on-going programs and special events on an occasional basis. Together the two committees constitute the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coordinating Committee

CHERYL GILES, Co-Director*
Campus Minister, Boston College
NANCY RICHARDSON
Episcopal Divinity School
FRANCINE CARDMAN*
Weston School of Theology
SUSAN COSTA
Rosie's Place
NOEL DOYLE, SND
Coordinator, Harbor Me
MYRIEL EYKAMP, M.Div. Cand.
Harvard Divinity School
DOLORES HARRALL, SND
School Psychologist, Roxbury
ELAINE HUBER, OP
Merrimack College
NANCY HUGHES, M.T.S.
Writer, Jamaica Plain
MARION KILSON*
Academic Dean, Emmanuel College
CLAIRE MCGOWAN, OP
Regional Coordinator,
Kentucky Dominicans
TONI NASH, CSJ, M.Div. Cand.
Weston School of Theology
SUSAN THISTLETHWAITE
Chicago Theological Seminary

Advisory Committee

MARGARET FARLEY, RSM
Yale Divinity School
CARTER HEYWARD
Episcopal Divinity School
JOAN MARTIN
Campus Minister, Temple University
MARIE AGUSTA NEAL, SND
Emmanuel College
LETTY RUSSELL
Yale Divinity School
VALERIE RUSSELL
City Missionary Society
KIP TIERNAN
Poor People's United Fund
MARY HELEN WASHINGTON
University of Massachusetts-Boston
DELORES WILLIAMS, Ph.D. Cand.
Union Theological Seminary
HELEN WRIGHT, SND
Urban Ministry Center, Raleigh, NC

* serving on both committees

ENROLLMENT is limited to twenty participants each year to encourage the formation of community and to facilitate learning and personal growth.

Projected TUITION for 1983-84 is \$3000 for all participants. Those requiring academic credit will need to pay an additional fee to the crediting institution. SCHOLARSHIP assistance is available based on financial need.

The program BEGINS in early September and runs through the END of May, to keep within most academic calendars and to allow for a period of orientation and a final assessment of the program.

HOUSING is available through Emmanuel College in Boston.

RESPONSE/FURTHER INFORMATION

I need more information on _____

My own area of concern is _____

I am interested in the program for the year _____ to _____.

I am not interested in participating in the program at this time but wish to support the Women's Theological Center through my gift of _____. (The Women's Theological Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation; your contribution is tax deductible.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Zip) _____

Phone: (_____) _____

WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL CENTER
400 The Fenway
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
(617) 277-1330



WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL CENTER

The Women's Theological Center is...

...a PROGRAM

for learning that is both Christian and feminist, designed for women working for justice in social and ecclesial settings and for women in academic degree programs in theology and ministry. In an ecumenical community of racial, economic and national diversity, its members build on their experience and further develop the theological, analytical and practical skills needed in working effectively to overcome oppression and to bring about a new social order.

...a PLACE

in Boston that responds to community needs by sponsoring workshops and celebrations, and that collaborates with local groups in on-going action and reflection for social and ecclesial change based on a feminist and Christian commitment to justice.

...a GATHERING

of women in ministry and theology who work together across racial, national, economic and denominational lines to create a Christian feminist context for study and action. The people and resources of the Center are part of a growing network of women in neighborhood, church, feminist, theological and academic communities in metropolitan Boston, as well as in New England and, increasingly, across the country.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Your support of the Old West Organ Society will help insure the continuation of concerts on the Old West Fisk organ, considered by many to be the finest of its kind in America. In addition, all donors will receive the Old West Organ Society Newsletter, a unique resource containing exclusive interviews and articles of special interest to Society members. Please send your much-needed, tax-deductible contributions to:

Old West Organ Society
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP:

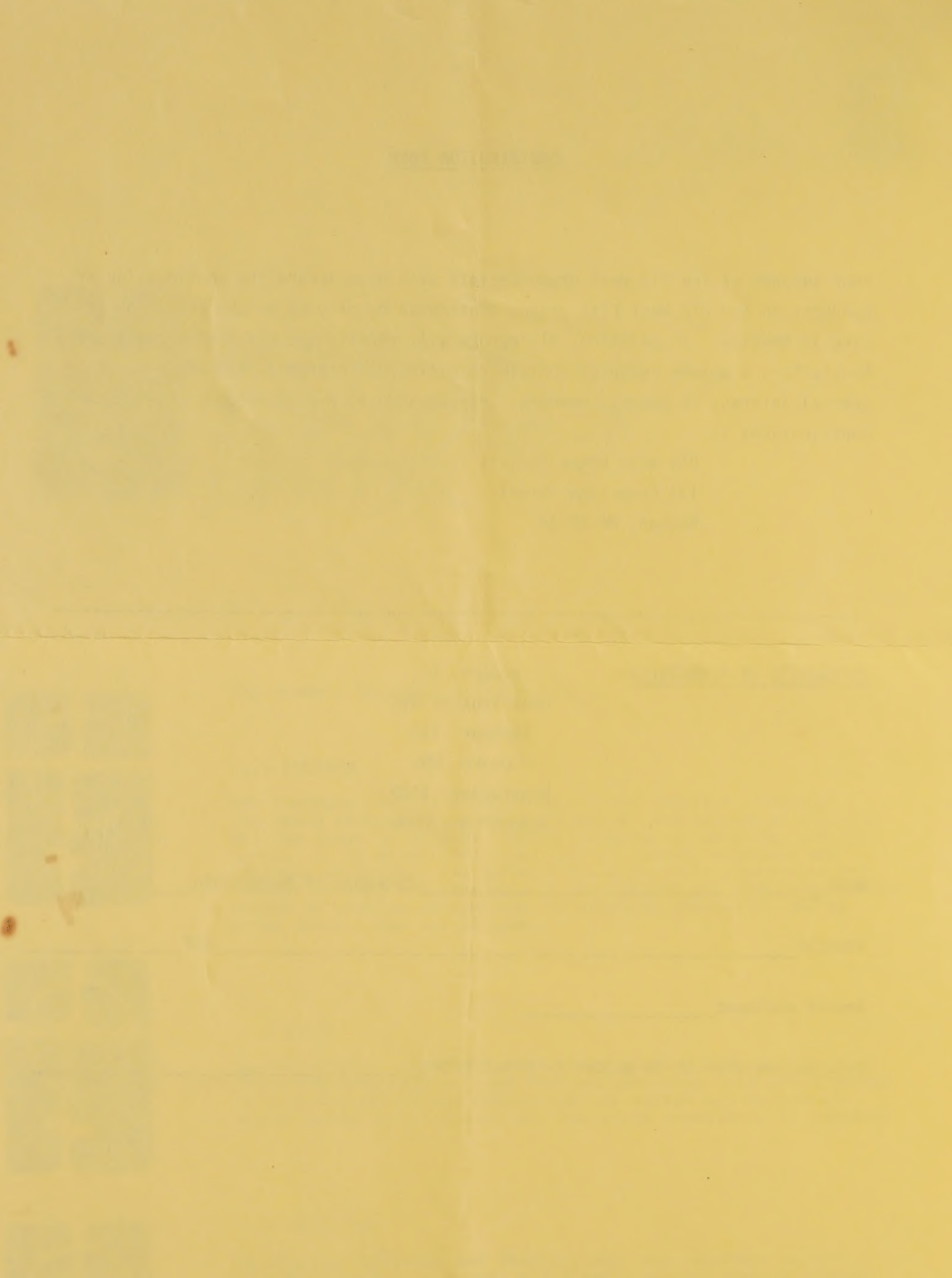
Member: \$5
Contributor: \$15
Sponsor: \$25
Patron: \$50
Benefactor: \$100
Guarantor: \$150

NAME _____ Category of Membership _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Amount enclosed _____

Name as you wish it to appear in the program _____



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Guarantor: \$150

NAME _____ Category of Membership _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Amount enclosed _____

Name as you wish it to appear in the program _____

Gail Garthe Laraine Vexo
8 Rugby Rd.
Nashua, N.H.

39 (603) 882-8862

38

Ex husband introduced at co. outing.
Became good friends. Both
have daughters same age - are
good friends.

Tell feelings were "wrong".
Have known ea. oth 9 yrs.

Div. over affair & friend - husband.
married woman.

2 yrs. ago relat. changed, after G +
Paula broke up.

Laraine had had gay exp. when young.
Gail came out abt 13 yrs. ago. Had problem
at 18 abt. Paula → got married. Marriage
ended. After daughter was born - marriage
went downhill - mainly over money.

This relat. is very happy - Not only lovers
but "best friends".

Next meeting ^① 2 wks. / June 26th - All.